United Nations A/55/71-S/2000/393

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2000
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Items 29, 33, 39, 94 and 96 of the preliminary list*

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Culture of peace

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 26 April 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit the text of the joint statement issued by Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, and Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, on the occasion of the official visit of President Kuchma to Georgia from 15 to 16 March 2000.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council and of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 29 (Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), 33 (Culture of peace), 39 (Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies), 94 (Macroeconomic policy questions) and 96 (Sustainable development and international economic cooperation) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vladimir **Yel'chenko**
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement by the President of Ukraine and the President of Georgia adopted in Tbilisi on 15 March 2000

At the invitation of E.A. Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, L.D. Kuchma, President of Ukraine, paid an official visit to Georgia from 15 to 16 March 2000.

The Presidents of Ukraine and Georgia held talks during which they considered a wide range of matters relating to bilateral cooperation and a number of international and regional problems of mutual interest.

The Parties reaffirmed their readiness to support one another in the attainment of their joint foreign policy goal — integration into a European political, economic and cultural space — and to continue their cooperation within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the European Union and other international organizations and forums on the basis of the generally accepted principles and standards of international law and in accordance with their long-term national interests.

The Parties are convinced that, in view of the new challenges and goals dictated by the realities of the twenty-first century, it is essential to continue to make every effort to strengthen and advance their vitally important common interests, utilizing the broad opportunities offered by the potential for a special partnership between Ukraine and Georgia.

The Parties are prepared to take an active part in the formulation and implementation of proposals for the restoration of peace and stability in the Caucasus and intend to hold consultations on the multilateral and bilateral levels with a view to establishing joint positions.

The Parties declared their determination to make every effort to give real substance to cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States and to ensure the establishment, on the basis of the principles of GATT/WTO, of a free-trade area without any exclusions or restrictions and the mechanisms for the implementation of the understandings that have been reached.

The Parties reaffirmed the importance of transforming the Organization for Black Sea Economic Cooperation into a regional economic organization and expressed their intention of mobilizing efforts to develop and intensify trade and economic cooperation.

The Parties recognize the special prospects for the development and intensification of a partnership within the framework of Baltic-Black Sea cooperation and the need for coordinated efforts with a view to the harmonization of a single model of multilateral cooperation.

The Parties noted with satisfaction the intensification of cooperation within GUUAM and reaffirmed that it was their intention to improve and strengthen the mechanisms for continuing consultation and interaction, at the same time declaring their openness and readiness to cooperate with all interested parties in the region.

Ukraine and Georgia attach special importance to the all-round intensification and expansion of bilateral cooperation in all sectors based on the broad treaty and legal basis which has been established.

The Parties recognized that the considerable potential for the development of trade and economic relations was not being fully utilized.

The Parties noted the importance of the implementation of practical measures, the search for new forms and new areas of trade and economic relations and the need for joint efforts for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty between Ukraine and Georgia on economic cooperation during the period 1999-2008 and for more energetic activity by the joint Ukrainian-Georgian intergovernmental commission on questions of economic cooperation.

The Parties emphasized the exceptional importance of putting into effect the active measures agreed upon to ensure the full-scale implementation of the global international programmes — the establishment of the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, the Interstate Oil and Gas Transmission to Europe (INOGATE), and the transport of Caspian oil to Europe. They stressed the importance of continuing efforts to establish favourable conditions for the functioning of the Illichivs'k-P'ot'i ferry crossing.

Ukraine welcomes Georgia's policy with regard to economic and social reforms and European integration and the determination of the Georgian State to carry out the priority goals of its policy, aimed at the establishment of democracy, the primacy of the rule of law and the ideals of a democratically united Europe.

Ukraine reaffirmed the immutability of its position with regard to the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia and its all-round support in the settlement of that important problem and expressed its readiness to assist by holding the next round of meetings between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides within the framework of the Geneva process in the Ukrainian city of Yalta.

Georgia welcomed the fact that Ukraine had joined the Group of the Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Georgia, as well as Ukraine's readiness to take a direct part in the processes aimed at the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Noting the importance of cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, Ukraine and Georgia welcome, and will encourage in every way, cultural exchanges at various levels with a view to strengthening fraternal friendship and cooperation between the Ukrainian and Georgian peoples.

(*Signed*) E. **Shevardnadze**
President of Georgia

(*Signed*) L. **Kuchma**
President of Ukraine